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SUBJECT: HOLY SEE: POPE NAMES NEW FOREIGN MINISTER

[¶1.](#) Pope Benedict XVI has named Moroccan born archbishop Dominique Mamberti as the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States (FM equivalent). Mamberti is currently serving as apostolic nuncio in Sudan and Eritrea. He replaces Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo who has been appointed as "Governor" of Vatican City State. The appointments are effective as of today.

[¶2.](#) Dominique Francois Joseph Mamberti was born in Marrakech, Morocco in 1952. He is a French national, and his parents are Corsican. Ordained a priest in 1981, Mamberti entered the Holy See's diplomatic corps in 1986 and worked in Algeria, Chile, UN-New York, Lebanon and, before being promoted archbishop and nuncio in Sudan in 2002, in the Secretariat of State. The new FM speaks Italian, English, French and Spanish.

[¶3.](#) Comment. Mamberti is relatively young (54) and inexperienced as a papal ambassador having been appointed a nuncio only 4 years ago. Obviously he made a good impression when serving at the Secretary of State. The appointment of a non-Italian to the FM position was a sine qua non, with the top job of Secretary of State being held by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who also took office today.

SANDROLINI